

Irish race, intermediate in size between the nominate form and *T. juniperata scotica* White, and with a paler colour than the former (Skinner, *loc. cit.*). The Newbridge and Stepside specimens have a greyer ground colour and broader wings than two examples in the possession of KGMB, labelled “[bred] Burren, Co. Clare Eire; 30.ix.1964; E.S.A. Baynes”. It is possible that some of the difference in ground colour is due to ageing of the Burren specimens. The Burren specimens, both males, have wingspans of about 23mm and 25mm respectively, while the Newbridge specimen, also a male, has a wingspan of 25mm, and that of the Stepside specimen, a female, is 23mm.

The recent discovery of a form of *Thera juniperata* in eastern Ireland more closely resembling the nominate form, and which is here tentatively ascribed to it, suggests that the species has been introduced into the area along with the foodplant, either from Britain, or from continental Europe. The Stepside specimen was caught in a suburban locality in which several small juniper bushes were noticed in the immediate vicinity. The Newbridge specimen was found in a similar locality, in an almost ten-year-old housing estate, in which juniper bushes are likely to have been planted at least six years ago.— K.G.M. BOND, Zoology Department, University College, Cork, Eire. J.K. EARLY, Geology Department, University College, Belfield, Dublin 4, Eire.

Hentomological spelling.

I can readily sympathise with Mr P. Roper (*antea*: 97) in his bewilderment over the various perversions, oddities, and apparent personal quirks in the spelling of names based on those of places. In a priority-based system these doubtless have to be preserved, and it is probably beyond anyone’s reason to explain them all.

However, I can, perhaps, suggest a reason for the odd spelling *rhoumensis* for the race of the Small Heath on Rum. I would guess that the original form of the island’s name was Innis na Dhruim, “island of the ridge”, i.e. a ridge or “backbone” of mountains. (The radical form *druim* is the origin of the element Drum- in Scottish and Irish place-names.) Now this *dhruim* (not to enter too deeply into Gaelic phonology) would sound, roughly, something like “rroom” or “rhoum” — certainly not like English “rum”. Hence *rhoumensis* could be held to be a more phonetic spelling than *rumensis*, while the latter would have been preferable on grounds of simplicity. As to the Romans, I doubt if they knew the island; but if so, I expect they would have called it quite simply Insula Ruma. (The diphthong “ou” became disused early in the history of Latin, old “ou”s becoming “u”s.)

The case of *Daboecia* is quite different: it was evidently a blunder on someone’s part, possibly a printer’s but more likely, I think, a *lapsus calami* by the author or a copyist. He must have meant to write *Dabeocia*, but the termination *-oecia*, so common in scientific names (Greek *oikos*

“habitation”) could by a slip very easily have been written instead of *-eocia*.

I agree with Mr Roper's implication that obvious original errors of this kind ought to be corrigible; there can be nothing sacrosanct about them. I understand that the Rules do permit correction of spellings where a *lapsus* or misprint is evident, but I think more use should be made of this escape-clause. Misprints and misreadings are no doubt at the root of most such cases. Should an author really be at the mercy of his printer in this way for the rest of time?— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

Migrant Lepidoptera in Cornwall, September and October 1990.

For many years I have visited Cornwall during the month of October in the hope of finding some of the more interesting migrants which visit our shores. We spent the week from the 28th September to 5th October in a delightful cottage on a wooded hillside overlooking Gillan Creek, Helford River, near Falmouth (Ref. SW 781253). The first evening produced only a few common migrants but things improved on 29th when two *Orthonoma obstipata* Fabr. and a single *Spodoptera exigua* Hb. came to light, the first species I have not seen for many years and the second was completely new to me. However, the undoubted entomological highlight of the year came on the 1st October when two *Utetheisa puchella* Linn. (both males) were recorded together with a female *Heliothis armigera* D. & S. and a single *Palpita unionalis* Hb. Despite running the light for the rest of the week there were no more migrants of note.

During the day I was very pleased to be able to record *Macroglossum stellatarum* Linn. on three occasions in various parts of Cornwall and a large number of *Vanessa atalanta* Linn. including nine on one sunny bank of ivy at Gillan Creek on the 4.10.90 and several *Vanessa cardui* Linn.

A complete list from Gillan Creek is given below:

Palpita unionalis Hb. 29.9.90, 1.10.90; *Rhodometra sacraria* Linn. The Vestal. 29.9.90, two on 30.9.90, and two more on 1.10.90. *Orthonoma obstipata* Fabricius, The Gem. Two on 29.9.90. *Utetheisa pulchella* Linn, Crimson Speckled Footman. Two on 1.10.90. *Mythimna vitellina* Hübner, The Delicate. Two on 28.9.90, two on 1.10.90. *Mythimna unipuncta* Haworth, White-speck. Two on 28.9.90, two on 1.10.90, 4.10.90. *Spodoptera exigua* Hübner, Small Mottled Willow. One on 29.9.90. *Heliothis armigera* D. & S., Scarce Bordered Straw. A single female to light on 1.10.90. *Heliothis peltigera* D. & S., Bordered Straw. One on 29.9.90. *Autographa gamma* Linn., Silver Y. 28.9.90, 3.10.90, 4.10.90. *Macroglossum stellatarum* Linn., Hummingbird Hawkmoth, 30.9.90, Trelowarren, near Gweek, Helston SW719239, 1.10.90 Gillan Creek, Falmouth, 3.10.90 St Mawes, Cornwall SW 855332.— COLIN HART, Fourpenny Cottage, Dungate Lane, Bletchworth, Surrey RH3 7BD.